UN DECADE OF SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT
Accelerating action on six focus areas
Webinar Training Series

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

On 10 December 2025, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) launched the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport 2026–2035, together with its Implementation Plan, during a high-level event at United Nations Headquarters. The Decade, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2023 (resolution 78/148), provides a global framework to accelerate the transition towards sustainable, inclusive, safe, and resilient transport systems worldwide.

The Implementation Plan of the UN Decade, developed through a broad consultative process with Member States, the United Nations system, and key stakeholders, outlines a comprehensive roadmap for action. It covers all modes of transport for freight and passengers, from walking and cycling to road, rail, maritime, inland waterways, and aviation, and emphasizes the importance of aligning policies, finance, innovation, and data systems. The Implementation Plan emphasizes the role that sustainable transport plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sustainable development more widely. While transport is not represented in a standalone SDG, it is reflected in several SDG targets and directly or indirectly generates synergies driving progress across all 17 Goals.

The Implementation Plan is structured around six interrelated focus areas, which together provide a holistic framework for advancing sustainable transport:

1. Ensure Access to Sustainable Transport for All
2. Advance Low- or Zero-Carbon, Resilient, and Environmentally Sound Transport Systems
3. Enhance Efficiency and Promote Sustainable Connectivity and Logistics
4. Shape People-Centred Urban Mobility and Liveable Cities
5. Make Transport Safe and Secure
6. Leverage Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Transport

These focus areas are mutually reinforcing and require integrated policy approaches to maximize their impact. Progress in one area, such as access to public transport, can significantly enhance outcomes in others, including economic growth and decent jobs, efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability. As such, breaking down policy silos and fostering cross-sectoral coordination will be essential to fully leverage synergies and accelerate implementation during the Decade. Reflecting on the enabling factors for sustainable transport as outlined in the Implementation Plan will also be essential to guide effective action during the UN Decade. Strong partnerships, integrated policymaking, targeted capacity building, adequate and

well-aligned financing, and improved data collection and access are critical to unlocking progress across all focus areas and accelerating implementation at scale.

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Transport is being implemented by Member States as well as an active group of diverse stakeholders, and numerous development partners who stand ready to support Member States in their actions. The United Nations system, including DESA and the Regional Commissions, alongside multilateral development banks and other partners, is mobilizing support for implementation through knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, technical assistance, and financing mechanisms. However, there remains a strong need to translate the global framework into practical, actionable guidance for policymakers and practitioners at national and local levels.

In the lead-up to the launch of the UN Decade, DESA opened a call for voluntary commitments from Member States and other stakeholders to support action during the UN Decade. The launch event on 10 December 2025 unveiled 82 Sustainable Transport Action Commitments from around the world, backed by billions in financial resources. The commitments cover all modes of transport, and address the needs for increased financing, knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, research and innovation required for a transformation towards more sustainable transport globally. The commitments, and the organizations behind them, provide an excellent starting point for concrete action during the UN Decade. The webinar series will provide an opportunity for knowledge-sharing and peer learning also for the organizations implementing the Sustainable Transport Action Commitments.

Against this backdrop, the proposed webinar training series aims to provide a structured platform to deepen understanding of the Implementation Plan and to support Member States and Stakeholders in advancing concrete actions across the six focus areas.

Objective

The webinar training series aims to support Member States and relevant stakeholders in accelerating action during the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport by strengthening knowledge, capacity, and collaboration.

The specific objectives are to:

- Familiarize policymakers and stakeholders with the objectives, structure, and priorities of the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport and its Implementation Plan;
- Provide practical tools, policy approaches, and good practices to support integrated action across each of the six focus areas and related enabling factors;
- Showcase lessons learned, case studies, and innovative solutions from different regions and transport modes;
- Promote integrated policymaking, highlighting synergies across focus areas and encouraging cross-sectoral approaches that advance economic, social and environmental sustainability;

- Facilitate peer learning and exchange of experiences among countries, cities, and stakeholders;

- Support matchmaking between implementers and potential partners, including institutions offering financing, capacity-building, technical assistance, and knowledge products;
- Contribute to creating and strengthening global communities of practice around sustainable transport.

Format and structure

The webinar training series will consist of six thematic webinars, each dedicated to one of the six focus areas of the Implementation Plan. Each webinar will be 90 minutes, organized in English only.

Each webinar will include:

- Introductory presentations setting the scene and outlining key concepts
- Technical inputs and case studies from experts and practitioners
- Discussion on voluntary commitments from Member States and other stakeholders to support action during the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport
- Interactive discussions and Q&A sessions

The webinars will be recorded and made available on the UN Decade of Sustainable Transport website, creating a lasting knowledge resource accessible to a wide range of stakeholders beyond the live sessions.

To ensure broad and inclusive participation, the webinars will be scheduled at different times across the series, taking into account global time zones, to facilitate broad participation from around the world.

Organizers

The webinar training series will be organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Commissions, and interested multilateral development banks, as well as other partners contributing expertise and support across the six focus areas.